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Message Text

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41
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBIE-00 EB-07 COME-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /042 W
---------- 036999
R 141631Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0301

EO 11652NA GDS
TAGS: BGEN PFOR GH
SUB: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH

REF (A) ACCRA 203; (B) ACCRA 0300

1. VISIT OF PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS MEN TO GHANA AND EMBASSY BEING REPORTED REFTEL B.
2. DAILY GRAPHIC PUBLISHER KOFI BADU REQUESTED BACKGROUND BRIEFING AND WAS RECEIVED BY DCM AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLITICAL COUNSELORS JAN 11. BRIEFING WAS ESSENTIALLY LISTING OF TOPICS BRIEFERS WOULD INVESTIGATE IF THEY WERE DOING ARTICLE. BADU SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEND SOMEONE TO PHILADELPHIA TO STUDY SUBJECT THERE BUT ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO CONTACT BULLETIN OR INQUIRER TO ASSIGN REPORTER OR STRINGER ARRANGEMENTS. BADU IS CONVINCED BLAY-MIEZAH IS FRAUD AND THAT BLAY-MIEZAH IS HEAVILY IN DEBT TO TATA BREWERY OWNER, KWABENA SIAW, PERHPAS TO EXTENT OF QUARTER MILLION CEDIS. WHETHER GRAPHIC WILL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH EXPOSE IS NOT CERTAIN.

3. JAN 11 PAPERS ALSO CARRIED NEWS THAT BLAY-MIEZAH HAS CHALLENGED HIS DETRACTORS (UP TO MAXIMUM OF TWENTY) TO GO TO BRUSSELS AT HIS EXPENSE TO ASK GEOFFREY'S BANK IF IT HOLDS FUNDS (AMOUNT UNSPECIFIED) IN HIS NAME. HE ADDED THAT IF BANK CONFIRMED FUNDS, HE WOULD THEN SUE "DETRACTORS" FOR DEFAMATION
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OF CHARACTER. SO FAR AS WE AWARE, NO ONE HAS TAKEN UP OFFER, AND, AS BADU POINTED OUT, TRAVELERS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO

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DETERMINE ORIGIN OF FUNDS OR EVEN IF THEY EXISTED BEYOND ENTRY ON CARD WHICH COULD EASILY BE FALSIFIED.

4. CHRIS ASHER-EDITED PALAVER, JANUARY 8, RAN LONG EDITIORIAL CONDEMING "CIVILIANS" IN CASTLE FOR HINDERING REPATRIATION OF BLAY-MIEZAH'S FUNDS AND FOR SLANDERING HIM. SECRETARY TO NRC, EM. DEBRAH, APPARENTLY MEANT, AS THERE IS ALSO REFERENCE TO GHANAIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AT TIME BLAY-MIEZAH IN U.S. ASHER ALLEGES CONSPIRACY HEADED BY "CERTAIN PEOPLE PROBABLY IN THE PAY OF CIA AND FBI." PERORATION OF PIECE IS THAT GHANA SHOULD USE BLAY-MIEZAH'S FUNDS "EVEN ASSUMING THAT HE STOLE HIS MULTI-MILLION DOLLARS FROM AMERICIA."

5. COMMENT: TOPIC IS CURRENTLY MOST TALKED ABOUT IN ACCRA CIRCLES, AND WE ASSUME CHICKENS WILL SOON BE HOME TO ROOST. BLACK

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